

Minutes
of the
Seascale Parish Council Meeting
held on
Wednesday 2nd March 2022
In the Methodist School Room Seascale

Present:

Chair Cllr Lizzie Mawson
Councillors Cllr John Graham
 Cllr Catherin Harvey-Chadwick
 Cllr Ken Mawson
 Cllr David Moore

Clerk Jill Bush

Members of the Public

Ben Ashton
Craig Ashton
Brenda Parsons

Meeting is recorded for minuting purposes

1. Apologies

Cllrs Eileen Eastwood, Cllr David Halliday and Cllr John Spokes

2. Announcements from the Chair

None

3. Declarations of interest by councillors in respect to agenda items

None

4. Ratify the previous meeting's Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Moore and seconded by Cllr Harvey-Chadwick

5. Matters arising

(9.7) Due to the commencing of the bird nesting season commencing mid-March, the overgrown hedgerow and trees needed to be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Cllr Moore arranged to have these cut back and the decaying fencing removed, 2 trees removed due their rotted dangerous state. This work subsequently revealed a large amount of rubbish, including some plastic fencing. He also arranged with Copeland to have this rubbish removed. Following this work he received comments about how much improved the area looked following this work.

6. Guest Speaker – 2nd Seascale Scouts

Ben Ashton has been selected to represent Cumbria at the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea as part of Unit 48 along with 18 other young people from across Cumbria. The

Jamboree is a camp of over 40,000 Scouts from across the World and is a fantastic way to make connections across the globe, to develop skills such as leadership, independence, and teamwork.

He is also a volunteer young leader at Beavers and believes his experience at the World Scout Jamboree will broaden his skills and enable him to make a positive impact on our community, inspire more young people to join and become engaged with scouting, adventure and outdoors.

Additionally, all of the five scouts selected from West Cumbria would be happy to help with projects in the community, such as painting the bus shelter, gardening around the village or litter picks. The first of these is a litter pick at Wastwater. He thanked the council for their time and asked if there were any questions.

The council thanked Ben for coming to the meeting and giving this presentation. Cllr Moore recalled when his grandson was selected and enjoyed his experience. However, the Jamboree he attended only involved a journey down to Kent. There are obviously different and significant considerations, such as the cost of travelling to South Korea. Cllr L Mawson, who has passed on her contact details, suggested painting the jubilee bench would be appreciated and also suggested the scouts could get involved in the Christmas light switch on and perhaps have a stall. The council expressed its willingness to help financially support Ben's trip to the 2023 World Scout Jamboree.

7. To consider any planning issues

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| 7.1 | 4/22/2052/0F1 - Re-opening of the existing access 'RBLA gate' | 4 Conditions |
| 7.2 | 4/22/2082/0F1 - 5 Links Crescent - Single storey extension | No Objection |
| 7.3 | Copeland Local Plan – Cllrs Halliday and Moore met with the representatives and advised the parish did not need more larger dwellings, but did have a need for the smaller sheltered/retirement properties, as this would enable the locals who wanted to remain in Seascale to downsize, thus freeing up the larger properties onto the market. Draft formal response agreed by Council | Submitted |

8. Reports from Councillors and Working Groups

- 8.1 Community Partnership Meeting** – Due to Cllr Halliday not being able to attend this full council meeting Cllr Moore provided the report. Whilst the partnership would like to see more groups, more particularly it would like to young people joining. Not the groups that represent young people, but young people themselves. This is because this is a 15-year programme, so therefore the young people of today will be the adults at the end of this programme. Therefore it is important that they have a say in the decisions now.

There are going to be road trips around Copeland, 4 of these will be in Seascale. The facility will arrange the relevant people i.e. geologists are available to answer questions raised. Please note this will be halted during Purdah.

- 8.2 3 Tier Meeting** – Cllr Moore reported the following was discussed at the meeting:
- Local Government Reorganisation – Pat Graham spoke about the vision and ambition and the transition to the new authorities with the timetable leading to vesting day on the 1st April 2023. Town and parish councils may be asking when they will get involved but it will be when the shadow authority is elected in May 2022 that decisions will start to be made

and proposals will be made to the shadow authority on a whole host of governance issues. Noted, at present all councils at present had different ways of working which had to be considered. The process underway was not about a combined authority with an elected mayor and both unitary authorities would need to agree to take that matter forward after vesting day. On a question of a community governance review which is provided for in the structural change order allowed the new authorities to reconsider the number of councillors for each authority and not for the authorities to look at this stage at local council's boundaries and councillor numbers.

- Geological Disposal Facility – Cllr Moore reported that at the time of the last meeting a working party in Copeland were considering whether to form community partnerships. In the event Copeland BC and RWM agreed to form two partnerships with a search area in the south and a second search area in the mid Copeland area. These described as interim partnerships are now looking for a wider membership beyond parish councils in the search area, the developer and Copeland BC. a required principal authority. Both partnerships are comfortable with a seismic survey in the inshore area of the coast of Copeland and that will take place around June 2022 as a first start in looking for a suitable site provided the necessary agreements are obtained. The partnerships are now setting up their community investment panels so that the funding can be distributed of £1 million each year for each partnership. Additionally, both partnerships were looking to extend the work they were to undertake to inform residents in the search areas of the work especially the survey and the investment fund. David Savage spoke about the question of the suitability of the geology and the investment funding and the need to get a proper balance between the two. RWM and the LLWR were now under one umbrella described as NWS but with separate boards and CEO's. Cllr Moore was asked when suitable search areas would be known search and advised the geological work would go on for many years and this was at a really early stage. The issue of passing information to those local councils outside the search areas including those parishes inside the wards but inside the LDNP was raised. Members of both partnerships said that because only introductions had taken place to date there was little meaningful information that could be distributed and no decisions had been taken as to whether to hold the meetings in public. The question was asked whether the information about the grants that were successful would be made public. The answer was yes.
- Climate Change Action Plan - The Chair Andy Pratt, advised there needed to be public scrutiny of the work and recommendations and 15 of the oversight panel agree to form a scrutiny Panel to hold Copeland B C to account to ensure that it was not simply a talking shop. The first recommendation was to improve the green jobs and skills within the borough. Transport was an issue that primarily concerns the county council. Waste recycling was a big issue where it was accepted that it should become mandatory, and the council needed to get buy in from the public The idea of hubs where the public could take items no longer of use to them, but others may find a use. One recommendation was for a public consultation on nuclear power looking particularly as to whether small modular reactors would be acceptable in Copeland or whether green energy such as wind turbines was more acceptable. Calc is to circulate a simple questionnaire (further copy attached) He said a full list of the recommendations is available on the website of Shared Futures and the Copeland B C website

9. Finance Report

- 9.1** The reconciled Cash Book Balance for March is £70,909.51. No outstanding receipts or payments.

9.2 To date the authorised February payments are listed below

Library Charity	595.00	Accumulated donations transferred
Waterplus	154.25	Toilet block water & wastewater - Dec-Jan
Waterplus	75.58	Library water x 4 charges - Jan
Catherine Harvey-Chadwick	80.00	Foreshore litter bins - January
Pelleymounters	210.94	35.16 Xmas tree, lights & cleaning supplies
Copeland BC	925.25	154.21 Foreshore turfing
Copeland BC	510.24	85.04 Concrete bases for 2 benches
Jay Halliwell	1616.92	Library electric heater installation
Octopus Energy	24.07	1.15 Toilet Block Electric - January
West Lakes Dog Club	250.00	BMX track donation
Utility Warehouse	7.69	0.65 Library gas - January
DAV	19.16	CCTV system SIM

9.4 2022/23 Copeland open space & play area inspections contract of £7830.30 excl VAT has been received. It was agreed by council to accept the 3% rise on last year.

9.5 The insured value of the assets has not been updated since 2020, Cllr Moore proposed a 5% rise to ensure the assets are fully covered. Agreed by Council

9.6 2 estimates have been received regarding installing the pavilion external lights. The J & I Garner estimate has been agreed by Council

9.7 Tax invoice received from Mort Sport & Play Ltd to carry out all the preparation work to the existing tarmac and dirt track.

10. To consider matters pertaining to Parish Assets

10.1 Library – An enabling grant has enabled a free consultation to fund a feasibility studies of a sustainable upgrade and electrical survey for the library refurbishment and creation of a community hub in the library building. Cllrs Halliday and Moore met an architect to discuss what can be realised. It is likely the library charity trustees will be taking this bid forward.

10.2 Play areas

Nothing to report

10.3 Toilet Block

The disabled toilet light has been repaired

10.4 BMX track – Geological Disposal Facility Community Partnership has approved the grant. The first invoice has arrived (see item 9.7 above). Once the payment is approved the work will commence. It is hoped the work will be completed by the start of the season.

10.5 CCTV – The electrician has reported rust issues in the lamppost, and this was discussed by council. **Update:** Cllr L Mawson has arranged an onsite meeting with the electrician on Friday 10th.

11. To consider matters relating to highways and transport

11.1 Further to the C Cllr Turners report that the bus stop near Cross Lanes being designated for police only radar trap. Disappointment has been expressed over the decision and annoyance against the parish council for agreeing it. This was agreed without seeking permission from the parish. The parish council had no say in this decision and was only advised this had been decided by highways last month. Subsequently, Seascale has lost an amenity for the school buses to Millom and West Lakes, Sellafield shuttle buses and the local bus when the service returns in April. The layby is now for police only. Cllr K Mawson expressed a strong objection to this decision. Highways to be notified of the way this was dealt with and the problems this decision will create for the parishioners. **Actioned**

- 11.2** The brown Seascale tourist sign has been hit and damaged in a traffic accident and one of the legs has broken. This is now a hazard as the sign swings across the highway. Highways to be informed. **Actioned** report reference EI/58382
- 11.3** The Greengard car park is still closed, and Sellafeld contractors cannot use the shuttle bus and this is causing parking issues. Extreme disappointment was expressed about the lack of action from Sellafeld following the meeting with parish council representatives about the parking issues its decision to remove onsite parking has created. A further meeting is required urgently.
- 11.4** Cllr K Mawson reported that the bench that has been installed by the Viking Way layby, is of a good sturdy construction.
- 11.5** Cllr k Mawson asked if the cricket field layby waiting restriction could be extended to 4 hours, or if the chemist staff who use this layby could have a permit. Unfortunately both of these questions were answered in the negative.
- 11.6** Cllr K Mawson asked what was happening regarding the rail tunnel wall repair – This was reported to Network Rail last year. **Update:** This year they have stated under “**Point 5** *The Tenant will be responsible to repair the stone boundary wall only when damage is caused to the wall arising from the landscaping works and occupancy (ie vandalism)*”. However, the damage was done to the highway side of the wall by an HGV, and subsequently not caused by either of the two clauses under point 5 above. Therefore, once its information gathering is complete, SPC will contact Network Rail to dispute the claim of responsibility.

12. Urgent items raised by Councillors

- 12.1** There are 2 trees in Lingmell Crescent approx. 50’ high, the roots are now lifting the paving slabs causing a tripping hazard. Unfortunately, this can only be dealt with by the landowner, who is understood to be living in Hammersmith, London. In the past communications to the landowner have not been responded to. It is an unfortunate state of affairs that councils can only advise, and unless a tree is blown down across a highways, highways nor any of the residents can legally to do anything to the trees, apart from when the branch grows over a resident’s boundary. Then overlapping branch can be cut back to the boundary. However, you are required to pass these branches back onto the landowner’s land.
- 12.2** Cllr Harvey-Chadwick suggested an advert for a self-employed to job share litter bin emptier was put on facebook. Agreed by Council
- 12.3** Cllr L Mawson reported Drigg Young Farmers will be carrying out a beach clean on 13 March and asked if they could use SPC’s new litter pickers? Cllr Harvey-Chadwick confirmed they could.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1** The West Lakes Dog Training Club have very kindly sent a £250.00 for the BMX track refurbishment. The parish council thank them again for their very generous donation.

14. Members of the public questions submitted to Council

- Brenda Parsons objected strongly that the clerk (inaudible comment which may or may not have been about the car park but was referred to).
- Re: “the Barbara Scott episode, it appears she lives in the” (not clear but possibly said Taunton) “Bridge area running workshops, so why did she need to camp in our Seascale car park. It makes it even more questionable it is genuine.” Further comments were made about this member of the public. “As for the police involvement it is not how it was minuted and ask if you could be a little more careful if you don’t mind, it is about my reputation.” **Note:** this is in reference to item 12.2 of the December minutes

- Asked “What the council was going to do when there is rat infestation?” She reported she had seen was a rat walking across the footpath away from the bins near the play area. A risk to the children because of the food thrown away across the play area. The Chair asked what food, to which Brenda Parsons aggressively responded loudly “don’t you ever see was the chips and bits of paper”. The Chair advised if rats had been seen then the area definitely needs to be monitored. Brenda Parsons continued to speak loudly accusing the council of not believing her. The Chair reiterated the area will be monitored. Brenda Parsons starting shouting over the Chair as she was speaking so it is not clear what was being said. The Chair advised she had exceeded her allocated time. Brenda Parsons shouted “you really are despicable, you really are...rats running riot and continued shouting over the Chair as she again reiterated the area will be monitored. Brenda Parsons accused the council of “treating her as if she is absolutely” (the rest of the comment is not clear as she was speaking over the Chair)
The Chair asked if she had any questions.
- Brenda Parsons asked, “What punishment are you plotting to hand out now that I have made a complaint to the ICO?” The clerk advised the Chair was aware Brenda Parsons had submitted a complaint to the ICO. Brenda Parsons expressed annoyance that the rest of council had not been advised she had submitted a complaint to the ICO. **Note:** It is only when an external body formally contact SPC over a complaint received, the whole council are notified.
The Chair declared the meeting closed

15. Date of forthcoming meetings

Full Council 6th April